

HOUSE BILL 61
By Ferguson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-402, relative to aggravated child abuse and neglect.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Haley's Law".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-402(b), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (b)(1) and by adding a new subdivision thereto, as follows:

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1), if the offense of aggravated child abuse or neglect was especially heinous, atrocious or cruel in that it involved torture or irreparable physical injury and medical attention for such torture or irreparable physical injury was delayed or not sought then punishment shall be not less than forty (40) years. In addition, a jury may assess a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.